4: Stegmiller -2- M-4,5, (No date) 1925
AR7 Khasi Aa7

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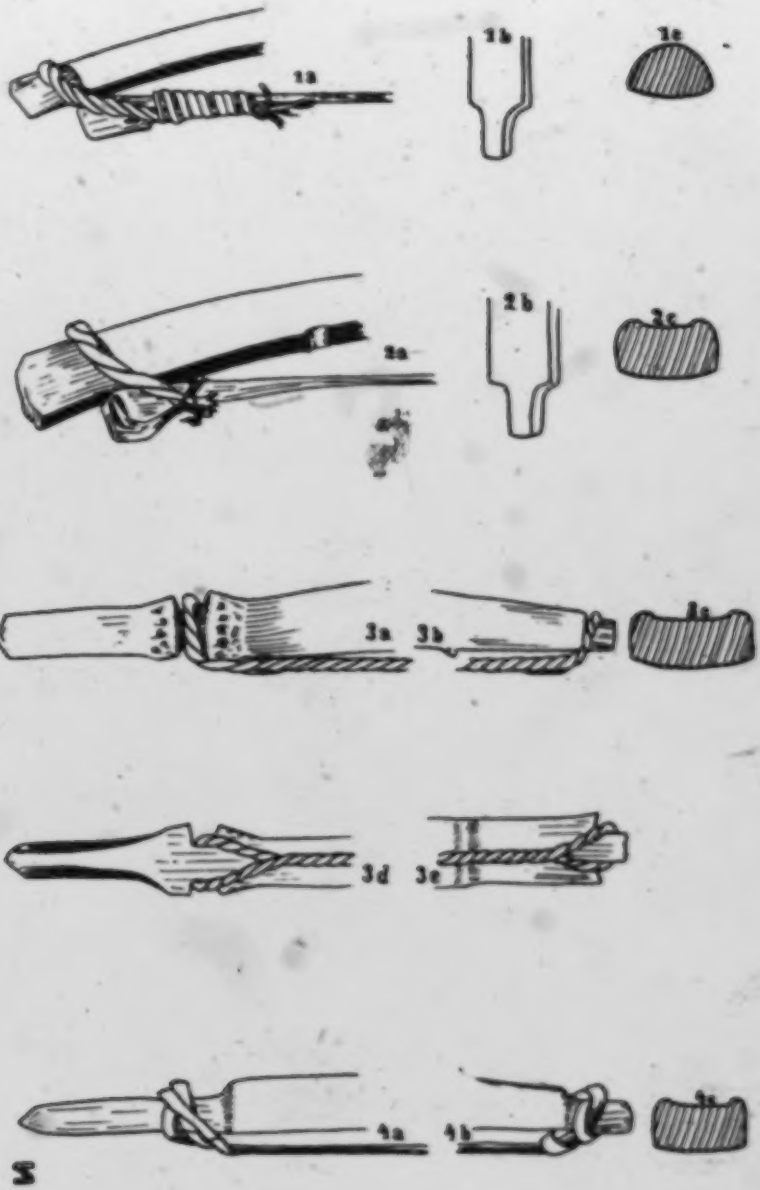

Fig. I

When a strong bamboo with many knots is found, it is cut off and split after the length has been determined. The outside of the bow in smaller bows is rounded off; (3) 411 322

3. Illustration I, fig. 1c.

for the usual bows and the larger ones almost the full half of the bamboo is taken. A little is cut off only on the sides so that the profile of the bow nearly forms a right angle. (4) In each case the shiny

4. Illustration I, figs. 2,3,4c.

outer side of the bamboo becomes the inside of the bow. The bow becomes smaller towards the ends. The ends are rounded off. Underneath one end, about 3 centimeters from the end, a notch is made, into which the string is put directly without any other means of fastening. The string remains fastened by pulling the loop taut. At the other end of the bow a peg is cut, around which the string is hung just before the bow is used. Often both ends of the bow end in a point. (5)

5. Illustration I, fig. 1, 2b.

The bow must not be kept strung but must be unstrung when left unused for a while. Stringing the bow is always done in this way. The archer takes the bow in his left hand while standing, resting on the ground the end to which the string always remains attached, and then pressing down the other end with his right hand as far as is necessary to hang the loop of the string around 411 284.

411 the peg. In many cases with bows with the
•284 points indented the string is attached by
means of a special loop of bast or split
bamboo (u thri), but it is also fastened
directly by hanging around the peg. [608]
[Illustration I. Khasi Bows. 1a, 1b, 1c, 2a,
2b, 2c, 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d, 3e, 4a, 4b, 4c].
[609] The bow is carved flat in the middle
and a strip of reed palm is wound around it so
that there is a band 12 to 15 centimeters wide
around it. The purpose of this is to provide
a surer grip, as the left hand, which carries
the bow when shooting, gets a better grip on
the ribbed foundation. In other places also,
primarily at the ends of the bow, such reed
strips are fastened and merely serve the purpose
of ornamentation.

411 When the bow is completed, it is thorough-
322 ly smoked. The smoking takes place in the hut.
In the center of the hut a fire burns constant-
ly in a hearth of earth or of stone, the smoke
of which, since there is no vent or chimney,
seeks a way out the best it can. Above the
fire a swing is set up from the ceiling on
which the wood lies for drying. The bow and
also the string are left lying on this swing
until the desired result occurs. Smoked bows
are more resistant to dampness, longer last-
ing, and considerably tougher. The smoking
has no effect on the flexibility of the bow. (6)

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6. Ethongraphic Museum Munich:
Bows As, 108, a, b, c, have 3
knots; bow As, 28, has 4 knots;
bow J has 3 knots; bow S has 5
knots; bows As, 108, a, b, c,
have a length of 119.5 centi-
meters; bow As, 28 has a length
of 144 centimeters; bow J has a

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length of 141 centimeters; bow S has a length of 156 centimeters; bows As, a, b, c, have a breadth of 22 millimeters in the middle, and 17 millimeters at the ends; bow As, 28, has a breadth of 27 millimeters in the middle and 18 millimeters at the ends; bow J has a breadth of 25 millimeters in the middle, and 12 to 16 millimeters at the ends; bow S has a breadth of 32 millimeters in the middle, and 12 to 18 millimeters at the ends; bow S gets smaller and smaller at an even rate towards the end to which the string is attached just before the bow is shot, while it gets too high at the other end. Height of the bow in the middle is 15 millimeters, at one end 12 millimeters, at the other 17 millimeters; bow J gets smaller and smaller at an even rate towards the end where the string is attached just before the bow is shot, while at the other end it becomes too round. Height in the middle 15 millimeters, at one end 12 millimeters (in the breadth), at the other end 12 millimeters (about on the average). None of the bows has either a wrapped handgrip nor any other ornamentation.

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283 For making the string (u ksai) the Khasi split a bamboo and split a strip of it off which they smoke thoroughly. The string is uniform for bows with a circular notch; for bows with tapered points, it becomes thicker towards the ends, on which braces are cut from the bamboo knots made from one piece with the string. The kinds of bamboo used for the strings are called u spit, u skhen and u siej-lieh by the Khasi. Bast string, twisted many times, is also used for the string. The bamboo strings are smoked (see above).[1] The strings obtained thus are extremely strong and can stand great tension. With a bow of 150 centimeters the height of the arc, i.e., the span of a strung bow amounts to 10 to 12 centimeters. Often, however, the string is almost the length of the bow and no arc results. When shooting the arc is increased by tightening the string to 60 centimeters. Thus the bow is a powerful, mighty [610] sling, which sends off the arrow without any mechanism other than pulling back the string and moving back the bent bamboo. (7)

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•284 7. Bow As, 108, b, has a bamboo string with 5 knots, the shiny side facing inward. The string is 4 millimeters wide in the middle and 7 millimeters wide at the ends. At each end there is a brace cut out of a piece with the string. The string is fastened to the indented tips by means of a threefold bamboo lace (u thri). The string and the bamboo lace are fastened by a strip of bamboo 3 millimeters wide. Illustration I, fig. 1a, height of the arc 9 centimeters,

[1] [See category 11c, p. 4--Analyst]

weight of the bow 190 grams. Bows 108, a, b, c, can scarcely have been used for sport, more probably they are children's bows, unless they were made deliberately for selling to Europeans. Bows As, 28, has a bamboo string with five knots, 3 millimeters wide in the middle and 8 millimeters wide at the ends and at both ends there are braces made out of a piece with the string. The outer shiny side of the bamboo string that is turned inward is scraped off with the exception of the ends of the string. There it is split and bent back as a covering for the brace. The string is fastened on both sides of the indented tips by means of a double bast lace. Both are held together with wire. Illustration I, fig. 2a, height of the arc 8 centimeters, weight of the bow 330 grams. Bow J has a bamboo string with two knots, 3 millimeters wide throughout without a brace. It is fastened at the pegs by hanging directly. Weight of the bow 330 grams. Illustration I, fig. 4a, 4b. Bow S has a threefold string of bast. This bast string is hung around the notch and the peg (indented tip) like a loop. The knots that tie the loop are 30 centimeters and 19 centimeters respectively from the ends. Weight of the bow is 449 grams. Illustration I, figs. 3a, 3b, 3c, 3d. Both of the bows mentioned last have no

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arc height since the strings are as long as the bows.

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The Khasi make the followings kinds of arrows:

1. Feathered arrows ('nam-pur).
2. Unfeathered arrows ('nam).

Feathered or unfeathered ones are: a) hunting arrows, b) arrows for sport. Always feathered are c) children's arrows.

Ad a) Hunting arrows (u 'nam-pliang) are about 70 centimeters long, and have tips like a spear with barbs. (8) The weight of the hunting

8. Illustration II, figs. 2a, 2b.

arrows is about 25 grams. These arrows are still poisoned nowadays.

Ad b) Arrows for sport (u 'nam-sop) are about 60 centimeters long and have round, conical iron tips. (9) Weight of the arrow for

9. Illustration II, fig. 1.

sport is about 8 grams.

Ad c) Children's arrows (u 'nam-phiah) are about 50 centimeters long, and have round points or none at all. The feathering is different from that of the other arrows (cf. the latter).

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Shafts of the Arrows

All the arrows are made of a very thin bamboo (u 'nam-long or igrâ) and smoked. When possible bamboo free of knots is used. The arrow is about 6 to 7 millimeters thick. The length of the arrow varies greatly. For the arrow and the bow must complement each other inwardly just as they belong together externally.

(10)

Name of village	Name of society	Sponsored by
(1)	(2)	(3)
7. Sutnga ...	(1) Credit Society.	Local people
	(2) Co-operative Trading Society.	
8. Darrang ...	Marketing Society.	Do
9. Shella ..	Trading Co-operative Society.	Do.

4.10 **Cottage Industries.**—It has already been mentioned that Village and Cottage Industries are not very popular in the district.

The following table shows the industries reported from the sample villages:—

TABLE B-9

Industry	No. of villages reporting existence of the industries.	No. of villages reporting production for sale.
(1)	(2)	(3)
Cane and bamboo works ...	9	7
Blacksmithy	5	5
Tailoring	2	2
Handloom	...	...
Weaving and Spinning ...	3	1
Rearing of cocoons, etc. ...	1	1
Rearing of lac	1	1
Others	2	1

Blacksmithy and making of baskets, cane products, etc, out of cane and bamboo, are a traditional occupation Weaving and spinning of cotton, rearing of endi cocoon and weaving of endi, etc., are in vague only in the Bhoi area and the areas adjoining Kamrup and North Cachar and Mikir Hills districts. Lac rearing is found in the northern portion of the district, *i.e.*, Nongpoh area.

Except cane and bamboo works and blacksmithy other industries are practised in a very limited scale. There is thus a lot of scope for introducing cottage industries in the district.